

## REMARKS

### Amendments

The claims are amended to use language in accordance with conventional US practice. Also, claim 1 is amended to be generic to original claim 5, and claim 5 is amended to now be dependent on claim 1. These amendments do not narrow the scope of the claims.

New claims 14-22 are directed to further aspects of the claimed invention. See, e.g., the original claims.

### Election

In response to the Restriction Requirement, applicants' hereby elect Group I, claims 1-4 and 14-22. The Restriction is, however, respectfully traversed.

Prior claims 1 and 5 were both directed to processes for anionic polymerization of lactames. See, e.g., page 3, lines 5-8 of the Office Action. The difference between these two prior claims was that claim 1 introduced the solution of step (a) into a mixing device while claim 5 recited introduced this solution into a mold. These concepts clearly relate to a single general inventive concept. This single general inventive concept is now recited in amended claim 1.

The Restriction alleges that Groups I and II are unrelated because they involve diverse steps and reaction conditions. This is incorrect. The main claims of these two groups differ only with respect to vessel in which bulk polymerization is performed.

Prior claims 1 and 5 are method claims, not compound claims. These two claims contain the same special technical features, namely the common process steps and process conditions recited in the claims. See PCT Rule 13.2.

In view of the above remarks, withdrawal of the Restriction and examination of all pending claims is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,



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